

**Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee Meeting held at
Corsham Town Hall on Wednesday 28 May 2025**

Present Councillor T Ellis (Chair)
Councillors H Belcher OBE, N Brakspear, J Brook, G McCaffrey and
G Ward

In Attendance Councillor A Brown
J Whittleton (Head of Technical Services)

P&A 01/25 Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor S Abbott.

P&A 02/25 Public Question Time and Petitions

None.

P&A 03/25 Declarations of Interest

None.

**P&A 04/25 Matters Arising from the Minutes of the Property and Amenities Committee
meeting held on 26 March 2025**

Minute P&A 85/24 No.10 Town Bus Saturday Afternoon Services Proposal - The Committee asked for an update on the Saturday afternoon bus service, which it had agreed to part-fund.

Resolved

That an update on the Saturday afternoon bus service be sent to the Committee members.

P&A 05/25 Public Realm (*Minute P&A 74/23 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services provided an update on efforts to construct a dry-stone wall in front of Moxhams, Newlands Road. The Town Council's contractor had started work on the wall footings in late April. Unfortunately, two electricity cables c.30-40cm deep were uncovered shortly after the work started (the cables had not shown up on the asset search). As the cables were shallow and ran along the course of the footings, it was not possible to proceed with the wall without diverting the power cables. It was understood from SSE that this might take several months. In the meantime, it had been decided to fill in the trench, remove the Heras fencing and traffic management and return the area to normal

until it was in a position to proceed. The Head of Technical Services had written to the tenants of Moxhams to explain the situation.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 06/25 Guide Hut and Arnold House Feasibility Study (*Minute P&A 06/24 and others*)

Work to appoint an architect for the Feasibility was well advanced. The specification had been published on Find a Tender and the Town Council had received submissions from 22 architects. A shortlist of four architects had been drawn up and interviews would take place during week commencing 2 June 2025, after which an appointment would be made. It was expected that the feasibility work would be completed before the end of the calendar year with the production of a costed concept design. The Council would then be asked to consider whether the site would fully meet the future needs of the grounds team and whether it wished to proceed with the project.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 07/25 Asset Management Plan (*Minute P&A 62/24 and others*)

The Committee received an update from the Head of Technical Services on tasks outlined in the Asset Management Plan.

At Arnold House, the Town Council's contractor had re-pointed the gable end and side walls at the rear of the building and also completed some minor stone repairs. Another contractor would be starting work next month to carry out lath and plaster work in Flat 2.

At the Town Hall, a stone mason was carrying out work to replace a number of stone blocks that had weathered and cracked at the top of the gable end and chimney stack. This work had been slightly delayed by bees which had been living in the chimney. The bees had been removed and it was expected that work would be completed the following week.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 08/25 Springfield Skatepark (*Minute P&A 37/24 and others*)

The Head of Technical Services gave an update on the work of the Corsham Skatepark Project Group. Maverick Industries had been chosen as the group's preferred contractor and had started design work for a new facility by holding a session with local skaters to capture what they'd like to see at a new skatepark. Alongside this, Maverick was conducting an online survey which had been

publicised and sent to schools. The survey would run until mid-June (86 responses had been received as of the date of the meeting). The group expected to have an agreed design produced by the autumn. The following stages would be applying for planning permission and applying for funding from national and regional providers.

Issues discussed included:

- That the Committee had previously determined that the project could take up to 800m² of the Rec (the current facility is approximately 400m²); and
- That the Corsham Skatepark Project Group had a number of fundraising events coming up including a music event at the Old Road Tavern in Chippenham, a demonstration/training event for younger skaters with ATB (a skating shop in Swindon) on 14 June, a raffle and a skate jam later in the summer.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 09/25 Wiltshire Council's Local Transport Plan 4

Consideration was given to the Executive Summary of Wiltshire Council's Transport Plan.

Issues discussed included:

- That the plan appeared to be rather woolly and contained few definite measures that it would deliver; and
- That the recent Wiltshire Council elections might have implications for the Local Plan and this might have a knock on effect for transport.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 10/25 Proposed Permissive Path between Neston Rec and CORM51

Consideration was given to a proposal to create a new permissive path between Neston Rec and the nearby Public Right of Way. The proposed path had been suggested following discussions between Wiltshire Council's Rights of Way & Countryside Team and the landowner (Neston Estate) after the latter closed an informal route nearby. If the Town Council was in favour of the new path, it would be required to enter into a permissive path agreement with the landowner and agree to Wiltshire Council installing a gate at the new entrance to Neston Rec to prevent livestock from gaining access.

Issues discussed included:

- That some of the clauses in the draft agreement were misnumbered; and
- That the agreement would not create a Public Right of Way.

Resolved

To support the creation of a new permissive path; to agree to enter into a permissive path agreement with the landowner, and to agree to Wiltshire Council installing a new gate at the entrance to Neston Rec.

P&A 11/25 Review of Bus Stops along the No.10 Route

Consideration was given to a review carried out by the Corsham Bus Action Group which looked at all the stops along the No.10 route, identifying the need for new stops and highlighting issues with existing stops.

Issues discussed included:

- Bus provision for residents of Wadswick Green;
- That the No.10 takes a long convoluted route through Neston which discourages some people from using the service;
- Whether the No.10 route was about to be reviewed and whether there might be some rationalisation of stops or the creation of new stops;
- That the Northleaze and Silman Close stops were very close and that only one of them was needed;
- That the area the group identified at Park Lane was about to be marked with double yellow lines;
- Whether having a stop at the corner of West Park Road and Danvers Road is a good idea from a road safety point of view;
- The proposed stop at West Park Road appears to be a good idea;
- That the proposals for Dicketts Road were already the subject of a Highway Improvement Request; and
- That there appears to be a high density of stops on the No.10 route and that this might add to journey times, cause confusion and discourage people from using the service.

Resolved

To respond to the Corsham Bus Action Group by thanking them for their work and asking them to give further consideration to the following:

- Whether the work identified in their review would be best tackled after the No.10 route had been reviewed.
- Whether there needed to be some rationalisation of stops.
- What the group mean/what they are asking for when they refer to new stops – is this just a flag and timetable? Or is this road markings, raised kerbs and a shelter (which would entail a considerable cost).
- Given the cost of putting in new bus stops and the limited officer time and budget available to the LHFIG, the group was asked to consider prioritising the issues it had identified.

P&A 12/25 Requests for Highway Improvements and Traffic Surveys (*Minute P&A 78/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to the following Highway Improvement Requests:

- i. Black Path, Corsham – Request for additional No Cycling signage at the entrance points to the path at Springfield Rec, Paul Street and the Tynings.

Issues discussed included:

- That it is already clear, due to the presence of existing signage, that cycling was not permitted along the path; and
- Cyclists were only rarely seen using the path.

Resolved

Not to support the request.

- ii. Active Travel Signage – Request for better signage on the Corsham-Chippenham cycle route.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether additional signage was really necessary as cyclists tended to know the routes to and from Chippenham;
- That it was more important to have good signage at the Chippenham end as Cyclists would welcome taking a route that avoided Chequers Hill; and
- That many cyclists would go to Chippenham via the A4 as it was speedy, but come back via Easton Lane as it avoided the hill.

Resolved

Not to support the request.

- iii. Long Stay Car Park – Request for a dropped kerb and relocated/expanded hatching.

Issues discussed included:

- Whether this was an issue best pursued via the LHFIG or through Parking Services.

Resolved

To support the request and to take it forward with Parking Services in the first instance.

P&A 13/25 Speed Indicator Devices and AutoSpeedWatch (*Minute P&A 80/24 and others*)

Consideration was given to the data obtained from the SID which had been located at Gastard between March and May 2025. The Committee also noted that the Neighbourhood Policing Team had undertaken to consider directing enforcement action, if the Town Council could identify times/locations where speeding was prevalent.

Resolved

To note the update.

P&A 14/25 CCTV Operation and Management Report (*Minute P&A 15/22 and others*)

Consideration was given to the annual Operation and Management Report for the CCTV.

Resolved

To note the update.

The meeting began at 7.00pm and ended at 7.55pm. There was one member of the public present.

CHAIR

DATE